

June 10, 2003
 Recessed Budget Work Session

Minutes

Members Present: 5
 Lloyd Davis-Chairman
 Brent Hunter- Vice-Chairman
 Josh Baity - Commissioner
 Johnny Myers- Commissioner
 D.C. Swaim- Commissioner

Members Absent: 0

Others Present:
 Cecil E. Wood, County Manager/Clerk to the Board

Chairman Davis called the meeting back to order and had the invocation.

Minutes

Arlington Fire Department

Scotty Calloway and Lynn Elledge appeared before the Board to discuss the Arlington Fire Department budget. It was stated that Arlington has not increased their fire tax in the last three to five years and they are putting money aside for a new building. They plan to build at the present location because they own sufficient land where they are now and at some future date, they hope to merge Arlington and Jonesville Fire Departments. Arlington has a new truck fund which will replace a twenty year old tanker. The department may be able to cut the rate when the building is completed.

Boonville Fire Department

Dean Norman and Walter Mathis discussed the age of their trucks and the need to replace a truck in the next five years.

Commissioner Baity questioned the telephone expense.

The expense covers two lines at the station and cell phones in the trucks. Mr. Mathis and Mr. Norman reported that the other equipment is in good condition.

Buck Shoals Fire Department

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Paul Wells and Renee Mullis stated their district is 30 percent in Wilkes and 70 percent in Yadkin. Their trucks are older models and they are looking to replace a tanker. Their equipment is old but in good condition. They have \$96,000 in a CD and \$40,000 in checking. The audit should be completed next week.

Courtney Fire Department

Donald Hawks and Johnny Williard reported they have approximately \$3,000 in checking and none in savings. They lowered their rate this year because they felt the taxpayers in their district deserved a break and they saw a way to do this. Their trucks are in good shape and they have a new pumper. Part of the district is in Davie County and they receive some funding from Davie County.

East Bend Fire Department

Kelly Speer and David Matthews reported the department has \$187,000 in the bank. Their efforts over the past few years has been to reduce their fire rating. They are presently rated a 5 in East Bend and 9S in the rural areas. Going from a 9S to a 5 will save \$162 per year on a \$100,000 house.

Fall Creek Fire Department

Greg Davis and Barry Crissman reported the department had cut its fire tax rate a ½ cent for the past three years. They have \$123,000 in the bank and their equipment is in good shape.

Forbush Fire Department

Guy Hutchens and Dean Cornelius reported their equipment is in good condition. They owe approximately \$247,000. They have received insurance reimbursements for hazardous spill clean ups. Forsyth County makes up about 20 percent of their fire district area and supplies approximately 20 percent of their budget.

Lone Hickory

Buddy Renegar reported the fire department has \$65,000 in the bank and they have a debt of approximately \$100,000 on their trucks. They need to replace a truck, purchase new turnout gear and air tanks. The building and utilities line item shows a large increase because the building needs a new roof and paving in front of the bays. The department is checking into the possibility of grant funds. Mr. Renegar reported they receive money from Iredell County which represents part of the district. Iredell County has a county wide fire tax and Lone Hickory receives a percentage of the tax. The Board of Directors are elected from people living in the district. All property owners in the district are eligible to vote.

West Yadkin

David Brown and Charles Bryant reported the equipment at the department is in good shape and well maintained. The department has a debt of approximately \$250,000. They need to replace three trucks. They have two cell phones and two phone lines at the station. The department has no credit cards, but does have three Wal-Mart cards to be used by the officers. They pay a part-time secretary/treasurer which is the only paid employee. They are working on lowering their fire insurance rating.

Yadkinville

Eddie Sheek and Jody Doss reported that an amount equal to the stolen funds have been set aside in a reserve account to be used by the department.

The Board reviewed the department's budget and questioned several expense line items.

The department indicated that several of the costs being questioned were the result of the SBI investigation. Other costs were the results of improvements to the building and normal operating costs. They reported the Board of Directors are more actively involved in the management of the department and get monthly reports on the department's finances. There is also a finance committee which reviews all expenses. The credit cards have been collected and there are only fuel cards with each truck. The department has a debt of \$272,000. The department wishes to build a fire training tower which will be used by all the departments. The department needs to replace some of its trucks.

Rescue Squad

Wayne Matthews explained the squad has four business lines for the central station and two outposts. Each truck has a cell phone. The department needs radio upgrades and breathing apparatus. The department has a debt of approximately \$200,000.

Schools

Karin Mendenhall, Chairman BOE, shared with the Board of Commissioners what a ten percent cut to school funding would do. It would affect clerical positions, assistant teaching positions, assistant principals, janitorial staff, no supplement increase, change the tuition reimbursement program, affect the coaching supplement and increase the need for more fund raising. County cuts coupled with State cuts will result in the loss of teaching positions. The schools are using fund balance to cover some of these shortages and next year will probably have to look at combination classes.

Chairman Davis asked how valuable are the SROs?

Dr. Todd responded that children are safest, in school terms, when they are with teachers or their parents.

Health Insurance

The Board reviewed the proposed health insurance plans.

*Commissioner Baity made a motion to accept Plan B, Blue Cross Blue Shield; Blue Care. Commissioner Swaim seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

Recycling Sites

Mr. Adams, Services & Development Director, presented the Board with a plan reducing the service hours at the recycling sites. The new schedule removes approximately 80 hours of operational time; or the equivalent of two people. The schedule does not reduce the hours of operation at Site 6. The new schedule provides for 8 hours on Monday, 8 hours on Friday and 6 hours on Saturday. Some sites will be reduced to one day a week due to lack of demand for the service.

*Commissioner Baity made the motion to approve the new recycling site schedule. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

Insurance for RIF employees

The Board discussed the benefits of paying for the insurance of those employees which had been dismissed. After reviewing the cost of such program, *Commissioner Swaim made the motion not to pay the insurance of those employees dismissed due to reduction in force. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

Mr. Wood reminded the Board that Gerry Nance, Finance Officer, had made a request of the Board regarding her comp time. The Board determined that it did not wish to revisit the comp time issue.

*Commissioner Baity made the motion to follow the comp time policy therefore denying the request of Ms. Nance. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

Senior Centers

The Board reviewed information from Ms. Larkins concerning the effects of the funding cuts to the Senior Centers.

After discussion, *Commissioner Baity made the motion to retain funding for the senior centers at \$30,000. Chairman Davis seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

Closed Session

*Commissioner Baity made the motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel (G.S.

143.318-11(a)(5). Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

*Commissioner Baity made the motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

Sheriff

The Board requested the Sheriff resubmit an application for the COPS Programs. This would also take care of the CARE and DARE Program.

*Chairman Davis made a motion to provide the Sheriff with two officers for the DARE Program. Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 2-3. Commissioners Myers, Baity and Swaim opposed.**

Inspections

*Chairman Davis made the motion for the county to pay Jerry Miller's legal fees. The motion died due to lack of a second.

Health

*Commissioner Baity made the motion to cut an additional \$45,000 from the Health Department budget. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

Fire Departments

*Commissioner Swaim made the motion to cut the fire department tax rates 1/4 of one cent except for the departments of Courtney and Fall Creek. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 3-2. Commissioner Davis and Hunter opposed.**

Communications

*Commissioner Myers made the motion to approve a change order of \$8,000 to our communication contract with RCS. Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 4-1. Commissioner Baity opposed.**

Finance

*Commissioner Baity made the motion to delay hiring additional personnel in Finance for one quarter to determine the type of personnel if any that may be needed. Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

Adjournment

*Commissioner Baity made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

Cecil E. Wood, County Manager/Clerk to the Board